176.
V86

# THE SCOTISH INQUISITION

OR,

A Short Account of the Proceedings

OF THE

Scotish P[illegible]vel, Judiciary Court, and those Commissionated [illegible] Commissions of good Men have been [illegible] of the Nation these several Years past [illegible]ingly disturbed, and Multitudes of Innocent People cruelly Oppressed, and inhumanely Murdered.

Printed in the Year MCCLXXXIX.

THE

# SCOTISH INQUISITION;

OR,

## A Short Account of the Proceedings OF THE

Scotish Privy-Counsel, Justiciary Court, and those Commissionated by them, whereby the Consciences of good Men have been Tortured, the Peace of the Nation these several Years past exceedingly Disturbed, and Multitudes of Innocent People cruelly Oppressed, and Inhumanely Murdered.

IN the Tract of these years, altho' Informing was a Trade more encouraged than in the Reign of *Tiberius*, yet they Arraigned multitudes without Informer or Accuser; and whoever appeared not upon their Summar Citation (which oftentimes was impossible) were treated as Criminals.

They seized many of all Ranks, and detained them months, and years, without any signification of the cause of their Imprisonment; and seldom liberate any such without Exorbitant Bail: but if they could find the least shadow to prosecute any suspected to mislike their Arbitrary courses, they precipitated their Process not allowing them time or means to vindicate their Innocency.

They sent their Inquisitors through their Prisons and Citizens houses, to examine whom they pleased, upon most intricate Questions of Church and State-government, and made their refusing to answer, or dissatisfactory answers, the foundation of their Indictments; others seized in the Crowd at Executions, and some when visiting the imprisoned, were Condemned and Executed, for refusing their Severities against their Brethren, and disowning their *Dagon* of Non resistance.

They frequently sent out Spies to Prisons, Cities and Country, under disguise, who by simulating their dissatisfaction at the Exor-

bitan-

bitances of the Government, and Zeal for perfected Piety, might draw words from the most wary, sustaining such and other Informers as habile Witnesses to the taking away the Lives of many Innocents, notwithstanding of one Expreis Act of Parliament to the contrary.

They often prolecuted without a Libel; and when they formed Libels, they seldom restricted themselves to the points therein contained, holding them, as confessed who refused to answer their Captious and Extranious Questions.

They not only employed Emissaries, but Judges themselves were active to suborn Witnesses against the Lives, Estates and Honours of Peers and worthy Patriots (a palpably gross management of such an Intrigue, having qualified a person for a chief Seat in their High Court of Justcie) and when they could not find such Execrable Ruffians to serve their turns, they forced Pannals to answer *de super Inquirendis*, in the most Criminal cases. They have often sustained Jurors and Witnesses, who could not purge themselves of prejudice or partial Counsel.

They have Indicted, Tryed, Condemned and Executed persons in one day: and when Intercession hath been made for some time to prepare for Death, it hath been answered, They shall have no time to prepare for Heaven, Hell is too good for them. They have kept some in expectation of Reprieves and Pardons, till the very day and hour of Execution; others they have hanged early in the morning, thereby preventing the peoples seeing their Cruelty, and hearing the dying persons last words, and palpably designing by such surprizals the Ruine of their Souls. They frequently beat Drums about the Scaffolds, their Cause being such as could not bear the words of dying Christians. They searched several, when removing them from the Prisons to the Scaffold, seized their Testimonies, that, to they might not come to publick.

They would have their Laws to reach Thoughts as well as Actions, and many against whom they could charge no matter of fact; they sought to reach their Lives for their Thoughts, asking them, What think you of the Government, &c? Some they have wheedled to confession, by promising to favour their Ingenuity, upbraiding them

them for dissemblers if they would not speak freely, and by mock expostulations, *viz.* Are ye ashamed of your Principles? Are ye afraid to give a Testimony, &c. and forced them to subscribe their Confessions before the Council, which they produced as Witness against them at the Criminal Court, whereupon they were Sentenced and Executed.

When any refused to give Categorical Answers, then could they extort all by Torture with their Engines of Cruelty, the Boots, fired Matches betwixt the Fingers, and Thumkins, and after torturing hanged several, tho' thereby they could extort nothing.

When some had answered all their Questions, and cleared themselves of all charged against them, yet would they not pass them so, but impose some of their wicked Oaths, which they concluded they would not take, and according to the measure of tenderness they discovered in any, they appointed the Oaths; to the stricter the more smooth, to the laxer the more harsh; such as once their own natural Consciences did hate.

They required not only to have their Laws obeyed, but subscribed also, holding it not sufficient that people transgress them not, but likewise own the Justice of them, and the lawfulness of the Authority Enacting them, and swear to maintain them, and yet when some have complyed to all they sought, yet would they not discharge them, but upon Bond to answer again when called.

Not only Extrajudicial Confession will sustain with them, but when they have given the publick Faith, the Kings Security, the Act and Oath of Council, that such Confessions should not militate, yet they have brought it in as Evidence, and given it upon Oath, when their former Act and Oath was produced in open Court in demonstration of their Perjury.

They used frequently to pack Juries, picking out such as they thought any thing tender, and not bloody enough, and sometimes Listed some who they conclude would not concur, that thereupon they might get occasion to exact their Fines.

Sometimes when the Jury hath brought in their Verdict in favour of the Paunal, they have made them return and resume the Cognition

of

of the Proceſs again, and threatned them with an Aſſize of Error if they did not bring him in Guilty, yea frequently the Advocate threatned them under moſt peremptory Certifications if they found not the Impannalled Guilty; ſo that their uſing Juries was but for the Faction.

They have Sentenced innocent Perſons twice, once to have their Ears cut off and Baniſhed, and after the looping of their Ears, they have reexamined them, and Sentenced them to death.

They uſed to ſtage ſeveral together, of whom they knew ſome would comply, to tantalize others with the ſight of their Liberty, thereby tempting them to bite more eagerly at their ſnaring Baits, to wound the Conſcience.

They have not only Murdered many innocent Chriſtians in taking their Lives, but alſo endeavoured to Murder their Reputation and the Cauſe they owned, loading it with moſt reproachful Epithets, which was their peculiar policy, to bring the Heads of Sufferings to points moſt obnoxious to common Cenſer, and moſt Extrinſick to Religion, cutting of the Faithful Profeſſors of Religion, and true Lovers of Liberty, under the *odium* of Enemies to Government.

Some they Arraigned whom they could never reach by adducing many Witneſſes againſt in Tryal, nor by their Examination with their cruel Torture of the Boots, yet hath had their whole Eſtate ſeized; and alſo been ſent to Priſon in a Rock within the Sea, without being Convicted of any Crime.

They finding their means and motions under colour of Law, and Trals were too ſlow and troubleſom to acquire their deſigned Cruelties, and that the publick Executions tended more to confirm and and multiply the Lovers of Religion and Liberty, than to diminiſh and deter, took a more compendious way of ſending out their Souldiers impowered to Challenge and Examine whom they pleaſed, and to tender Oaths required by no Law, and to puniſh ſuch by preſent death who refuſed to Swear, or ſcrupled to Anſwer their enſnaring Queſtions, which bloody Commiſſions were ſo faithfully Executed, that within few Weeks above Fifty innocent Perſons were cruelly Murdered in cold Blood, without either Tryal or Convictions, or reſpect to Age or Sex.

Although

Although the multitudes of Families ruined by Exorbitant Finings, Forfeitures, Banishments, Imprisonments, Free quartering and Plunderings of Souldiers, and Barbarities of their *High-land* Host? the many cruel Edicts and Proclamations they have publisher, the unlawful Bonds, and wicked self contradicting Oaths imposed and pressed, the many Exactions whereby they have impoverished the Country, the many open Oppressions, horrid Tortures and Cruelties practised upon Innocents, the multitudes of Persons Male and Female, whom they have Murdered, Persecuted, Oppressed and Destroyed, are so many and various that they cannot be Collected: Yet some have been at no small pains to gather as much of these, as when published in a Martyrology of these times, (which is purposed to be done with all convenient speed) will give the World to know as well the Faithfulness, Patience, Courage and Constancy of these who suffered, together with the Equity of these their Cause, as the Inhumanity, Illegality and Severity of their Cruel and Bloody Persecutors.

FINIS.